



On Board

HMM-264 (REIN)
Black Knights
JANUARY 2007

From the Commanding Officer

To the "Black Knight" families and friends,

I wanted to take a few minutes to update you on how we are doing as we continue our deployment with the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU). After our departure in early January and our crossing of the Atlantic, we finished our first port calls in Palermo, Italy and Marmaris, Turkey. Now we are back underway to continue our deployment. During our visits, our Marines had a unique opportunity to see other cultures and experience a different way of life. More importantly they were able to represent our nation and our core values abroad. The MEU overall did an outstanding job during our port visits with no significant issues during our liberty ashore. Our Marines conducted themselves in a manner keeping with our traditions and values, while still having a good time in their search for souvenirs and gifts for families and friends! Now, however, we are back aboard ship and hard at work maintaining our aircraft and equipment in preparation for follow on missions and training throughout the region.

With that said, I know that everyone wants to know what we will be doing. I will try to sum it up the best I can with what I know right now. During this deployment, one of our missions is to provide the fleet commanders the ability to influence the region in a positive manner through theatre engagement and participation in the form of training and exercises with other countries in order to strengthen our friendships around the globe. This engagement allows us to understand our allies and partners as we continually assess our capabilities and limitations in defending our great nation. I know that it is sometimes hard to understand how we can deploy and leave our families and friends to spend time in port but I can assure you that there are operational and logistical issues that face both the ship and the MEU that require us to stop. We must also maintain the relationships we have with our friends abroad. Besides, Marines live for "liberty call" to experience new things and see the world! However, I cannot emphasize enough that as America's premier "911" Force in Readiness, our mission can change quickly and we can be called upon to protect our interests abroad should the need arise. We have a tremendous capability and can respond on short notice to a variety of scenarios if required and we are well prepared to do that!

As for **YOUR** Marines, I can tell you they are motivated and ready to accept any missions that comes our way and that they will execute those missions with the honor, courage, and commitment that is expected of United States Marines! I remain humbled as the Commanding Officer of the "Black Knights" and could not be any prouder of the Marines and Sailors in this squadron as we defend and serve our nation. They continue to perform at high levels of excellence and truly represent the finest of what our country has to offer!

To the family and friends of the Black Knights, I want to sincerely thank you for all of your education and support of our Marines and sailors throughout this deployment. As

Table of Contents

From the CO	1
SgtMaj's	
Guidance	2
Maintenance	2
Operations	3
KV News	3
S-5	4
MACG Det	4
From the FRO	4

**MARCH
FAMILY DAY

SUNDAY
MARCH 11

2PM - 4PM

MCAS NEW
RIVER
BOWLING
ALLEY**

Black Knight

15 January

2007

we are almost 1 month complete, the time has seemed to move along quickly. That it is a good thing for all of us. We look forward to a successful deployment and do what we are good at - "Being Marines." We also look forward to returning later this year to our friends and families. Lastly, I want to say thanks to the KVs for their efforts in keeping the information flowing and for all of the hard work and dedication in taking care of our families. Until the next update...Semper Fi!

LtCol M. G. McCoy

SgtMaj's Guidance

Greetings Black Knight Family members. We are at the end of our first month of deployment and I am happy to report that your Marines and Sailors are doing well. Separation from family is one of the hardest things that a person will face in his/her lifetime. However, we must remember what this is about. We can never forget that 9/11 occurred in our homeland. America is the nation that it is today because, throughout history men and women have taken a stand and said, "I believe in this country and I will do my part." Your Marines and Sailors are doing their part in order to preserve our freedoms and our way of life. All this sounds romantic and is pleasing to Marines' ears but on the other side of the coin, this could never have been done without your support at home. Believe me when I say, we appreciate everything that you are doing. Please continue to care for yourselves and for our children, nothing is more important to us than YOU.

Maintenance

The Maintenance Department has been working diligently and has made significant strides in integrating the five Type Model Series (T/M/S) aircraft together under the roof of what we refer to as the "Garage"! The unique roles of each T/M/S coupled with the supporting logistics necessary to keep them flying is a very complex and orchestrated effort, and your Marines are meeting those challenges daily. But what would a deployment be without a liberty port? So, while the ACE endured 14 days at sea everyone soon received a restful period to relax once the MEU arrived in Palermo, Sicily. This liberty port offered an extensive array of tours and shopping trips, and the availability of Italy's rich culture and history were just moments away in any direction. There was ample opportunity for photos to be taken and souvenirs to be purchased - as I am sure you have all been told. The first port call was a complete success and the Maintenance Department is rested and ready to begin work once again. As the ACE continues its journey, the Maintenance Department will continue to stay focused and provide premier readiness to the MEU Commander. The next few months promise to be challenging, rewarding, and most of all necessary as we directly ensure our American values and way of life are guarded and preserved.

AIR STATION LINKS SESSION

MARCH 20th and 21st 9am - 1pm

Call: 451-1299 to register

FREE ONSITE CHILDCARE, but you must call to register at least one week in advance

Black Knight
ts January
2007

Operations

The Operations Department has been quite busy since our departure on the 5th of January. From finishing our ground training requirements, live fire exercises to flight operations, the Operations Department has continued to excel at everything we have done. All of these events could not have been possible if it wasn't for the hard working Marines in the department.

While we know it was tough saying goodbye to family and friends, once on board the USS Bataan, all were eager to start the deployment. All of our hard work and long hours during the pre-deployment training is starting to pay off as we are continuing to build upon the working relationships that were developed during that time.

Crossing the Atlantic Ocean and transiting the Straights of Gibraltar were new and interesting to some and old news to most of the seasoned Marines. During this period, we developed daily routines, battled for precious flight time, and learned to cope with "Navy" showers. Our first port visit to Palermo, Italy turned out to be a great time for all, and a nice break from our daily routines on the ship. Many enjoyed the great food and tours of the city or ancient Greek ruins near the southern coast of Sicily!

We hope that all of our family, friends and loved ones back home are doing well! We will continue to stay engaged, motivated and be safe with our day to day operations and upcoming exercises.

KV News

Black Knight Families,

By the time you receive this we will have made it through our first month of deployment!! You are doing a great job!! If you have not yet heard from a key volunteer, please contact our rear detachment FRO at 910-449-6699 and he will get you in touch with us.

We would like to let you know that we will be having a Valentine's Potluck (Adults Only Please) on Saturday, February 10th at 630pm. It will take place in the Family Team Building on MCAS New River. If your last name begins with A-M please bring an appetizer or main dish. If your last name begins with N-Z please bring a dessert item. We will provide beverages and have a few door prizes too! Childcare will NOT be provided, however, (cont)

Saturday evening care at Tarawa Terrace CDC is available for a fee. You must complete a registration packet and turn it in to the Children, Youth & Teen Program on Camp Lejeune. You must then make your own reservation for childcare. It is best to call early on the

Monday morning preceding the event.

Did you know that MCAS New River hosts a FREE dinner for deployed spouses and their children? It takes place at the base chapel on the last Thursday of every month. It includes a short prayer service and dinner. No reservations necessary.

S-5

With two port calls in the beautiful Mediterranean, the Marines and Sailors aboard the Bataan were afforded many opportunities to see the sights in Sicily and Turkey. From Palermo, Marines were able to visit the ancient Greek city of Akragas, the stone walls of the castle of Venere, the beautiful views of Mt Etna from the city of Taormina, the sea-side city of Cefalu, or just a bus ride tour of Palermo itself.

In the resort town of Marmaris, Turkey, the Bataan was welcomed by eager vendors, and restaurants ready to make some money. Again the "Fun Boss" offered several tours for our enjoyment. Some traveled 3 hours by bus to the Roman port city of Ephesus, some went white water rafting (in January!), others were able to view the ancient Lycian rock dwellings, and others simply enjoyed a relaxing Turkish bath.

Both towns were welcoming and provided a way for our Marines and Sailors to see and experience other cultures.

MACG

During the month of January the Marines of the Marine Air Control Group (MACG) participated in a busy on load of vehicles out of Morehead City, NC. The on load onto to the USS Shreveport was completed by land and a small contingent of MACG Marines was flown onto the USS Bataan. During the Translant MACG Marines planned and supervised numerous Enhanced Marksmanship Program (EMP) Shoots for the Air Combat Element (ACE), thus improving the rifle skills of the ACE. Due to the MACG being split between two ships the ports of call were different for MACG Marines. The Shreveport made stops in France and Greece while the Bataan made stops in Sicily and Turkey. The Marines enjoyed their earned liberty, and our continuing their planning for exercises scheduled in February.

From the FRO

We are close to completing our first month underway. There have been both challenges and rewards on our way across the Atlantic and Mediterranean. As much as it was tough to say goodbye, it was exciting to sail forward into the unknown. We were able to enjoy the hospitality of both Palermo, Sicily and Marmaris, Turkey. Both cities welcomed the sailors and Marines of the Bataan and sent us away full of memories, pictures, and souvenirs. We now move toward the training portion of our cruise, and look forward to honing our war

fighting skills.

FREE Dinner for Deployed Families

MCAS New River Chapel

Last Thurs of Every Month

Service 1800

Dinner 1830

HMM-264(REIN) Website: http://www.usmc.mil/26thmeu/MSE%20Webs/HMM_264_WEB/ACE.htm

HMM-264(REIN) Phone Message: **(877) 817-7322** or **(910) 451-8780**
after reaching recording,

Black Knightdial extension **63** for HMM 264(REIN)

ts January

2007